

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SECRET

28 JAN 1974

Rear Admiral E. F. Rectanus, USN
Director of Naval Intelligence
Department of the Navy
Washington, D.C. 20350

Dear Admiral Rectanus:

Thank you for the copy of your study, "Comparative Estimates of Soviet Naval Strength." I consider this kind of performance review to be extremely valuable and would welcome further studies of this nature.

I fully agree that forecasting military forces is a difficult business and it too often becomes little more than educated guesswork for periods in excess of a few years. To help improve forecasting I would suggest that in future studies all of us give some detailed attention to the causes of our most serious errors. I would appreciate your recommendations as to the ways we could improve our identification of major uncertainties or errors and steps we could take to correct them.

Sincerely,

/s/ Bill

W. E. Colby
Director

CONCUR:

/4/

10 JAN 1974

Deputy for National Intelligence Officers

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D Executive Secretary

8 January 1974

Date

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